Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees from 1-7-91 and 1.1.92 have since been issued as under:

Date from which payable	Employees drawing pay upto Rs. 3500/- p.m.	Employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500/ p.m. and upto Rs. 6000/-p.m.	Employees drawing pay above Rs. 6000/-p.m.
1-7-91	60% of pay	45% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 2100/-	39% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 2700/-
1-1-92	71% of pay	53% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 2485/-;	46% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 3180/-

(c) Orders sanctioning payment of additional instalments af dearness Relief due to Pensions from 1.7.91 and 1.1.92 have also been issued. The details in this regard are as under:

Date from which payable	Pensioners drawing Pension upto Rs. 1750/-p.m.	Pensioners drawing Pension exceeding Rs. 1750/- but not exceeding Rs. 3000/-p.m.	Pensioners drawing Pension exceeding Rs. 3000/- p.m.
1-7-91	60%	45% subject to a minimum of Rs. 1050/-	39% subject to a minimum of Rs. Rs. 1350/-
1-1-92	71%	53% subject to a minimum of Rs. 1243/-	46% subject to a minimum of Rs. 1590/-

(d) The matter is still under consideration.

Clandestine export of Sandalwood from Tamil Nadu

145. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clandestine export of sandalwood logs from Tamil Nadu has recently been detected by the Madras Customs:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any further action against the involved prsons parties; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) & (d). Two containers of Sandalwood logs/billets weighing 23.4 metric tonnes, mid-declared as "Crude Raw Vermiculate", a mineral of the mica family, were attempted to be exported to Singapore. The market value of the goods is Rs. 82 lakhs approximately. The licence of the concerned Clearing Agent has been suspended. Questioning of the Clearing Agent has led to the main exporter, who had been absconding ear-

lier, but has been traced on 27th April 1992 and is being questioned by Customs officers.

Unearthing smuggling of Dish-Antennae in Bombay

146. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence Bombay have recently unearthed a major racket in the import of dish-antennae and components used to receive satellite transmission;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to check such illegal import of dish antennae and components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Members are presumably referring to the seizure of 6 pieces of computer synthesized satellite receivers with remote control valued at Rs. 2.40 lakhs approximately, effected by the Bombay Zonal Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on 9-2-1992. The goods were imported in 3 parcels which had arrived at Bombay from Hongkong and were declared to contain one 'resever' each to be delivered at an address in Bombay. On enquiry, this address was found to be fictitious.

(c) The Customs authorities are vigilant against smuggling including that of electronic goods. Intelligence is targeted against such smuggling and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for the collection collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling actively assists Customs authorities.

Impact of New Gold Import Policy

147. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's new gold policy has evoked little interest among non-resident Indians, especially in the Gulf countries to send gold to India;

(b) if so, whether the smuggling of gold continues in India despite Government's new gold policy;

(c) what is the quantum of gold brought into the country and smuggled seized since the implementation of the new gold policy;

(d) whether Government propose to further liberalise its gold policy to check smuggling of this metal and to induce NRIs to brng in more gold; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The latest trends in imports under the scheme do not support the view that the scheme has evoked little interest among non-resident Indians.

(b) Available reports and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country.